ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER S.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV. 11-2000) 331,1082 TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) 1517331 CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PRIORITY DATE PCT/EP03/05848 4 June 2003 11 June 2002 TITLE OF INVENTION TRANSFER LAYER OF LIQUID FLUIDS AND AN ABSORBENT ARTICLE INCORPORATING THE SAME APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US SUAREZ Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), 3. (6), (9) and (24) indicated below. The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 4. \boxtimes A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. 🖾 has been communicated by the International Bureau. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). c. 🗆 An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. 🗀 is attached hereto. b. 🗆 has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). X Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. 🗆 have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. have not been made and will not be made. An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 8 9. \boxtimes An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). 10. An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). 11. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). \boxtimes 12. A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included: 13. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 14 An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. \boxtimes 15. A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 16. 17. A substitute specification. 18. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 19. A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 20. A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 21. A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). \boxtimes 22. Express Mail Label No. EV 382794373 US 23. X Other items or information: Letter re: Priority Application Data Sheet

DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 9 DEC 2000 U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBE PCT/EP03/05848 331.1082 24. The following fees are submitted:. CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1080.00 BASIC NATL STAGE \$300 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to \$920.00 USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the ÉPO or JPO NATUSTAGE SEARCH \$500 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO NATL STAGE EXAM \$200 but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$770.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO \$ 1000 but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$730.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)...... \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$1,000.00 Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). \$0.00 NUMBER FILED NUMBER EXTRA **RATE CLAIMS** \$50.00 \$0.00 Total claims -20 =\$200.00 \$0.00 Independent claims 2 - 3 = \$0.00 Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS \$1,000.00 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. \$0.00 **SUBTOTAL** \$1,000.00 Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). □ 20 □ 30 \$0.00 TOTAL NATIONAL FEE \$1,000.00 Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). \$0.00 TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED \$1,000.00 Amount to be: refunded charged X \$1,000.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. A check in the amount of Please charge my Deposit Account No. to cover the above fees. b. in the amount of X The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment C. to Deposit Account No. 50-0552 d. Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC William C. Gehris, Esq. 485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor William C. Gehris New York, NY 10018 NAME **USA** 38,156 REGISTRATION NUMBER December 9, 2004 DATE

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Certificate of Express Mailing under 37 CFR 1.10 DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 9 DEC 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 in an envelope addressed to:

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each submitted paper.

Re.: Docket No.: 331.1082

Applicant(s): SUAREZ
Serial No.: To be assigned

Invention: TRANSFER LAYER OF LIQUID FLUIDS AND AN ABSORBENT ARTICLE

INCORPORATING THE SAME

Filing Date: Herewith

- Transmittal Letter to the U.S. Designated/Elected Office Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C 371 (2 pages);
- Copy of Int. Patent Application PCT/EP03/05848 w/ Int. Search Report (20 pages);
- Preliminary Amendment (8 pages);
- Two (2) Sheets of Formal Drawings;
- Unexecuted Declaration and PoA (1 page);
- Application Data Sheet (2 pages);
- Letter re: Priority (1 page);
- Information Disclosure Statement w/ PTO 1449 and Copies of Cited References;
- Check for \$ 1,000.00;

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.10. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.8 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.